

Like any "relief," this proposal has a price tag. More than 21 million married couples pay an average of \$1,400 more in taxes because they file joint income tax returns.

Weller has 218 co-sponsors for this legislation so far. That's a majority in the House of Representatives. The key player in his corner is House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Gingrich said that an anticipated budget surplus next spring could be used to offset the loss of revenue caused by the eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Even a heavyweight like Gingrich will face opposition with this unfair tax. There are numerous other uses for that projected surplus, including legislators who want to spend more to repair the nation's highways.

All of this considered, the elimination of the marriage tax should have appeal for working families. Weller said the tax change would be the centerpiece of any 1998 tax relief bills.

Working couples should support this concept. The tax is clearly discriminatory.

Weller released the results of a national poll this week that showed Americans support repeal of the marriage tax. We are sure of that. This is a middle class issue that will draw considerable support when it is explained to taxpayers.

Taxpayers across America should support repeal of the marriage tax. In this region that means contacting Weller's office or Rep. Harris Fawell of Naperville. It will bring clear-cut tax relief to married couples. There may be competition to use federal dollars for other purposes but working people need to stand up and be counted on this proposal.

Marriage should not be penalized by the IRS.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SAXTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### HUMAN RIGHTS IN ECUADOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about human rights in Ecuador.

On October 1, I traveled to Ecuador to visit several American prisoners who have been held for many years without even a trial. I made my first trip to Ecuador in April of this year, where I was surprised to see the horrible conditions of the prison and the chaotic condition that exists in the justice system.

Ecuador is a Third World country that cannot afford decent prisons. Many prisoners do not even have bathrooms or food that is safe to eat. The justice system is incredibly corrupt.

Judges and lawyers ask for bribes, and it is only the wealthy who can buy their way out. Almost 80 percent of the prisoners in this country have been held on drug charges. Because Ecuador has some of the strictest drug laws in the world, I have been told by several officials that this policy is a result of pressure from the United States.

I firmly believe that we need to be tough on crime. But the problem in Ecuador is that the drug laws are so sophisticated that you have to have a good functional justice system to administer these laws. Ecuador does not. There is no computers in the courtroom. It takes months before the police even let the courts know that someone has been arrested. And then you can sit in jail for years before anyone acknowledges you.

The problem is that when, and if, the people go to trial, more than 60 percent of them are found innocent. Let me repeat this. Sixty percent of those people are found innocent. This is a travesty. And in this system, there are almost 60 Americans. But there has been progress. The condemnation of international attention and visits by Members of Congress in this part of the country has shed light on the situation. I am proud today that since April, Ecuador has released more than 800 Ecuadorean prisoners who were trapped in this unjust system.

One of those prisoners was an American who was released last month after my visit. I spoke about this woman when I came to the floor in May to talk about the problems of this horrible system. Her name is Sandra Chase. She is a 53-year-old woman who suffers a terrible circulatory disease. She was arrested in December 1995 during her first trip out of this country. It took almost 18 months for the police to take her deposition. While she was in jail, Sandra lost her house and everything she owned.

On October 7, the Ecuadorean Government gave amnesty to Sandra Chase. She came home October 9, and her daughter Tammi and I met her in Miami.

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She is now with her daughter in California where she is receiving treatment for her disease. I cannot express how happy I was that after almost 2 years, Sandra Chase was able to come home to her family. What a terrible nightmare she suffered.

I am submitting a letter for the RECORD that I have sent to the Minister of Government in Ecuador thanking their country for their release of this prisoner.

While I am extremely grateful for the cooperation, I remain very concerned about another prisoner in Ecuador, Jim Williams. He has been held for 14 months, and the judge in this case continues to refuse all of the evidence presented on his behalf. This is a very good example of how the justice system does not work.

Jim Williams has brought an incredible amount of attention to the justice system in Ecuador and has helped many lives by doing so. I continue to pray for Jim Williams and his family. This Sunday night, November 9, Jim Williams and other American prisoners in Ecuador will be featured on 60 Minutes. I hope that this program will show the American people what is happening to our neighbors in South America and encourage this country to take a closer look at our policy in South America.

Finally, I want to thank the family of Jim Williams for their continued strong support. My thoughts and prayers go out to each of them, especially to Jim Williams' mother, who sends me cards of encouragement, and to Jim Williams' loving wife Robin Williams, who have worked campaigning for her husband each day since his arrest, and his brother Charlie Williams who refused to give up the fight. Robin and Charles are in Washington tonight working on behalf of Jim Williams.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. REDMOND]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Washington, Mrs. LINDA SMITH is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. McNULTY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. McNULTY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. RUSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule 11 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.